Introductions: Audrey Krebs served as the lead facilitator and presented the primary speakers. Chad Trepinski noted the following attendees:

Arizona: Joel Millman, State of Arizona, Dept of Economic Security

Mai Gabil, Area Agency on Aging, Phoenix Kent Koopman- Easter Seals, Yavapai County

Nick Perry- Easter Seals, Phoenix

Maria Ramirez-Trillo, AARP, Maricopa County

Arkansas: Nadine Grice, Arkansas Department of Human Services
Colorado: Audrey Krebs, State of Colorado, Aging and Adult Services

Lynn Dyatt, Rocky Mountain SER

Corrine Sherrick, Senior Resource Center, Denver

Oklahoma: Johnny Surles, Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

South Dakota: Todd Kolden, South Dakota Department of Labor

Texas: Priscilla Kirby, SER Texas

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Marie Gomez, SER National

Utah: Darren Hotten, State of Utah, Aging and Adult Services

Wyoming: Peggy Auker, Experience Works

Darren Hotton began the conference call with a brief history of how the partners met at the recent Denver training, and described how forming a coalition could have great value in a voice with persons involved in reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

Peggy Auker provided a broad overview of DOL's SCSEP Reauthorization proposals and recent Senate hearings regarding the reauthorization of the OAA. Peggy stressed the need for each of us to become educated on the reauthorization proposal of DOL, and counter proposals such as the Frontier Proposal discussed by Melissa Adams (Idaho Commission on Aging) at the April 6 Senate Hearing.

Audrey Krebs reinforced Peggy's talking points by stating that a regional coalition should not a back seat, now is the time to have a voice in SCSEP. Audrey felt that one of the most compelling issues that need to be changed is the income eligibility or the methods by which income is counted when determining participant eligibility. Audrey expressed dissatisfaction for inclusion of SSA income and the current 6-month look back methodology. Audrey would like to see the rules changed for the way in which participant's income is determined.

Johnny Surles asked Chad Trepinski what channels the coalition should take to make effectual programmatic changes to SCSEP. Chad reminded the group that he is unable to recommend or advise the coalition to contact the Department of Labor or members of Congress. The coalition should work collaboratively voice any concerns relating to SCSEP programmatic issues, rules, regulations, or proposed reauthorization principles.

Then, Audrey Krebs provided a synopsis of the State Senior Employment Services Coordination Plan (State Plan). Audrey asked when the State Plans were due. Gale Gibson and Chad Trepinski from DOL explained that because of the national grantee competition, SCSEP State Plans would not be due until November 30. Chad referred the audience to the SCSEP website to review the State Plan TEGL which was posted on the SCSEP website on April 17. Other minor State Plan questions were raised and answered by DOL.

The conference call was concluded by Joel Millman (Arizona Department of Economic Security), who discussed the idea of having a repository of SCSEP-related materials and resources available to all grantees. The repository would be a place for SCSEP grantees to share best practices, link to critical legislative information, etc. DOL explained that the www.doleta.gov/seniors website attempts to be that repository of information but sometimes falls short of posting every available resource or material valuable to all SCSEP grantees. The notion of a repository would be revisited at the next coalition conference call.

The conference call was concluded by Chad Trepinski who presented topic ideas for the next regional conference call. One critical element for May's conference call would be continuing discussions relating to the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, continuing SCSEP Senate hearings, expanding discussion on creating a repository of information for SCSEP grantees, and PY 06 grant application procedures for state grantees.

The next conference call is scheduled Thursday, May 27 at 1:00 ET, 12:00 CT, and 11:00 MT. The Pacific Northwest Older Worker (NOW) coalition will be invited to attend the May conference call.

Note: Several grantees were unable to connect with this conference call because the call reached its capacity one-minute after it began. Representatives from DOL will insure that May's conference call accommodates a larger audience. (May's conference call will accommodate 75 callers.)